WORLD OF WARCRAFT®

SHADOW WING™

NEXUS POINT

VOLUME TWO

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WORLD OF WARCRAFT®

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CHAPTER ONE

DARK LEGACY

Ragnok's army marches toward the Dark Portal. The death knight had been so certain of his impending triumph over his rivals, the Dragonmaw clan, that he had already prepared his followers for this next step...

That confidence had not been misplaced...

For the attack on the Dragonmaw, savage as it had been, had merely been a trial preceding a far more significant battle...

One in which Ragnok also expects to easily succeed...

But which others still hope to win instead...

WE MUST REACH THE ENCAMPMENT SOON! IT MUST BE WARNED BEFORE RAGNOK CAN UNLEASH HIS NETHER DRAGONS UPON IT!

THE ELEKK WILL... ENABLE US TO REACH THEM... BUT THEN... THEY MUST BE WILLING TO LISTEN...

THEY WILL LISTEN TO *ME*... THEY *MUST!*

I ONLY PRAY THAT TYRI WILL BE ALL RIGHT IN THE MEANTIME...

THESE DISTORTED EGGS... ONCE BLACK DRAGON EGGS... THEY'RE SATURATED WITH NETHER DRAGON ENERGY...

THE NETHER DRAGONS ARE DEATHWING'S *DESCENDENTS*...

WHO IS THIS DEATHWING?!?

VALOKU!

YOU **KNOW** WHAT THIS ALL MEANS! YOU KNOW WHAT WE **TRULY** ARE! EVEN THE GREAT MATRIARCH, KARYNAKU, KNOWS NOT WHERE WE CAME FROM! YOU MUST TELL ME!

IS THIS WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE? IS THIS WHAT YOU TWO WANT ME TO SEE?

HE IS A DRAGON ASPECT! AS SUCH, HE IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS IN MY WORLD! HE HAS OFTEN SOUGHT TO CHANGE AZEROTH FROM WHAT IT IS, DESPITE THE [illegible] OF MANY—

THERE IS SOMETHING YOU HIDE! I KNOW IT! I **HEAR** IT IN YOUR VOICE, YOUR CAREFUL WORDS! TELL THE TRUTH! I **WILL** KNOW IT!

VALOKU DOES AS VALOKU BELIEVES! WE BOTH WISH TO KNOW, THOUGH! TELL ME! ***TELL ME!*** WHO ***IS*** THIS DEATHWING?!

VERY WELL! I WILL TELL YOU *EVERYTHING!*

THESE EGGS-- ALL THE EGGS FROM WHICH YOU NETHER DRAGONS WERE SPAWNED-- WERE BROUGHT HERE FROM MY WORLD BY BLACK DRAGONS!

"DEATHWING, WHO SEEKS UTTER DOMINION OVER AZEROTH AT ALL COSTS AND NO MATTER HOW MANY LIVES IT TAKES."

A PLAN, NO DOUBT, SET IN MOTION BY THEIR DIRE LORD, DEATHWING.

DEATHWING, WHO WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED, IF NOT FOR THOSE WHO WOULD STAND AGAINST HIM...

ESPECIALLY THE OTHER GREAT ASPECTS

THE ENTIRE BLACK DRAGONFLIGHT IS A REFLECTION OF HIS EVIL...

AND AZEROTH HAS SUFFERED GREATLY OVER THE MILLENNIA DUE TO ITS MACHINATIONS

BUT DEATHWING'S AMBITIONS HAVE TAKEN A TOLL ON HIS OWN KIND...

MANY HAVE PERISHED, MOST EXPENDED BY THEIR LORD IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO FULFILL HIS MAD SCHEMES...

"THEIR EGGS DESTROYED WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND IN THE HOPES OF STAMPING OUT THEIR EVIL..."

"BUT CLEARLY DEATHWING PLANNED AHEAD, KNEW THE DANGER TO HIS KIND, AND THROUGH THE ORCS, TRANSPORTED AS MANY EGGS AS HE COULD..."

WHEN HE ENTERED THIS WORLD, I DO NOT KNOW, BUT HE CLEARLY DID. THEN, HE SECRETED THE EGGS HERE...

BUT THOUGH HE LEFT GUARDS AND LIKELY INTENDED TO RETURN... SOME OTHER ENEMY MUST HAVE APPEARED...

I KNOW THIS ANSWER, BLUE ONE. IT WAS THE GRON-- GRUUL, THE DRAGONKILLER STILL BOASTS TO ALL WHO CAN HEAR OF THESE THINGS.

MANY OF THESE BLACK DRAGONS FELL... AND MANY EGGS WERE CRUSHED... BUT NOT ALL

BUT, WITHOUT GUARDIANS, THE SURVIVING EGGS WERE LEFT TO THEIR FATES.

AND, IF I ESTIMATE THE TIME RIGHT, A CATASTROPHE OF THE MOST MONUMENTAL PROPORTIONS!

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE ENERGIES THAT SPREAD THROUGH THIS PLACE WHEN THAT HAPPENED!

WHEN THE EGGS FINALLY HATCHED, WHAT EMERGED WERE NOT BLACK DRAGONS.

"SOME WERE INCOMPLETE-- UNFORTUNATE, DEFORMED HYBRIDS THAT DIED QUICKLY."

"BUT FROM THOSE THAT THRIVED, THERE CAME SOMETHING... UNIQUE."

KRAAAK

KRACKLE

"THE FIRST OF YOUR KIND, VALOKU--THE FIRST NETHER DRAGON!"

A BLENDING OF AZEROTH AND OUTLAND, A FANTASTIC NEW SPECIES OF DRAGON.

AND A SWIFTLY MATURING ONE! IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN THAT LONG SINCE THE LAST HATCHINGS.. AND EVEN IN THE SHORT TIME I'VE KNOWN YOU, I'VE SEEN HOW YOU'VE CHANGED. YOU ARE ALREADY *QUICKER* OF WIT.

WE AGE SWIFTLY AT FIRST, THEN IT SLOWS.

BUT WE *ARE* SHORTER OF LIFE.

WE DO NOT LIVE SO LONG... OUR ENERGY [illegible]

I...SEE... PERHAPS IF WE CAN FIND--

[illegible]

ZZERAKU! WHAT IS IT?

I SEE FIGURES UP AHEAD!

"THE DEATH KNIGHT RIDES ON THE PORTAL...WITH THOSE OF OUR KIND ENSLAVED BY THE DRAGONMAW CLAN NOW HIS SERVANTS."

THEY ARE PALADINS! MY COMRADES!

AND THERE IS... A *DRAENEI*... WITH THEM...

TO THE .. OTHERS! AWAIT MY... RETURN...

THIS IS *NOT* NECESSARY! THEY *WILL* LISTEN! I *SWEAR!*

YOUR WORD... I TRUST... THEIRS... WE SHALL SEE...

HALT IN THE NAME OF THE ALLIANCE! WHO-- JORAD MACE!

HAIL, ARDWYNN! 'TIS GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE! I MUST SPEAK WITH LORD TRUEBLADE! WHERE IS HE?

THAT IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS! IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT YOU ARE A DESERTER! YOU VANISHED AND NONE KNEW WHERE!

YOU SHALL BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY! GUARDS!

!!!

STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS!

IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO SURRENDER PEACEFULLY, JORAD! YOUR PUNISHMENT MAY BE THE LESSER FOR IT.

I AM NO DESERTER, ARDWYNN, AND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT! IT WAS NOT BY MY CHOICE THAT I DID NOT RETURN BEFORE THIS!

AND WE WILL *ALL* SUFFER IF I DO NOT GET WORD TO TRUEBLADE! NOW, WHERE IS HE?

HE IS EVEN NOW IN CONFERENCE WITH COMMANDER DURON IN HIS TENT.

BUT THOUGH I MIGHT TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD, JORAD, YOU'LL CERTAINLY GO NO FARTHER UNTIL YOUR COMPANION'S ALSO BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

HE IS A BROKEN AND THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS! HE *CANNOT* BE TRUSTED--

ONE BROKEN HAS FAR MORE...HONOR...THAN *ALL* THE DRAENEI!

THERE IS NO TIME FOR THIS! THE ENCAMPMENT IS IN IMMINENT DANGER!

TAKE US TO LORD TRUEBLADE AND COMMANDER DURON! THEY *NEED* TO HEAR THIS!

TELL YOUR TALE AND I'LL RELAY IT TO THE OFFICER ON DUTY! HE'LL DETERMINE WHETHER YOU REMAIN FREE, MUCH LESS SEE HIS LORDSHIP.

I TELL YOU THERE IS NO TIME FOR ALL THAT!

NO TIME FOR WHAT?

AND WHO IS THIS OUTSPOKEN PALADIN, IRULON?

ARE YOU SURE, ZZERAKU? DID YOU TRULY SEE THAT?

YES! YES! I CHASED AWAY A PATROL COMING TOO NEAR! I FOLLOWED THEM AND THEN SAW OTHERS OF OUR KIND FAR IN THE SKY!

And back in the mountains...

SLAVES! ALWAYS SLAVES TO OTHERS! WE WILL NOT TAKE THIS ANY LONGER! VALOKU WILL BE NO ONE'S SLAVE!

I SAW THEN THE OTHERS WHO ONCE SERVED THE DRAGONMAW CLAN--SAVE BUT KARYNAKU, OF COURSE--FLYING AS SLAVES TO RAGNOK...

AND NO SOONER [illegible] TURNED TO THE DIRECTION OF THE PORTAL!

THEY [illegible]

AND THIS ISN'T SO VAST A LAND... THEY'LL NOT NEED LONG TO REACH THE PORTAL.

DO YOU NOT SEE IT, ZZERAKU? THE GREAT MATRIARCH WAS NOT WITH RAGNOK'S SLAVES! THE MAGIC CHAINS OF THE DRAGONMAW CLAN'S MASTER, ZULUHED, MUST STILL TRAP HER! ZULUHED MUST LIVE...

WHAT OF IT? WHAT DO I CARE OF THEM?

WE WILL FIND ZULUHED! ZZERAKU AND VALOKU WILL *FREE* THE GREAT MATRIARCH! WE WILL BE *GREATEST* AMONG NETHER DRAGONS!

YES! WE WILL DO THAT! THEN, WE WILL BE GREATEST!

NO! I HAVE A PLAN, BUT IT MEANS WE MUST FOLLOW RAGNOK!

NO! VALOKU IS RIGHT THIS TIME! WE WILL GO AFTER THE DRAGONMAW LEADER, ZULUHED! WE WILL SAVE THE MATRIARCH AND WE WILL BE MOST POWERFUL! IT IS DECIDED!

WAIT! WE CAN'T JUST—

COME, VALORA!

STOP! COME BACK!

WAIT!

UNGH!

I WILL NOT STAY TRAPPED! I HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM!

FWOOOM!

THIS PLACE WILL NOT HOLD ME! I WON'T LET IT!

I CAN'T LET IT!

THWOOOOOM!

YOU *WILL* LISTEN TO ME!

!!!

WE WILL FREE YOUR KIND--*ALL* OF THEM--BUT ONLY IF YOU DO AS I SAY!

RAGNOK HAS THE MEANS FOR NOT ONLY ENSLAVING THE OTHER NETHER DRAGONS, BUT ALSO FREEING THE DRAGONS HE CURRENTLY HOLDS CAPTIVE.

YES...THE DEATH KNIGHT! WE FLY IN, TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE--

AND BE ENSLAVED *ALSO?* NO, ZEERAKU... WE CAN DO THIS...BUT WE'LL NEED *HELP.*

HELP? WHO WOULD HELP *US?* ALL WANT TO ENSLAVE US!

I SPEAK OF THOSE WHO ENTERED WITH ME INTO YOUR WORLD... THOSE WHO NEED YOUR HELP IN TURN... THE ALLIANCE AND THE HORDE...

FOR WITH RAGNOK NOW MASTER OF SO MANY NETHER DRAGONS, NONE OF US STANDS HOPE OF SURVIVAL AGAINST HIM UNLESS WE *JOIN FORCES...*

"AND EVEN THEN...WE MAY STILL ALL FAIL..."

CHAPTER TWO

UPON DEAF EARS

WHAT SAW YOU TO THIS MAN'S WARNING, IRULON?

JORAD MACE IS NOT KNOWN TO ME AS ONE WHO SPEAKS FALSELY. BUT HIS MIND HAS BEEN DISTRAUGHT AND THERE IS MUCH IN HIS PAST HE NEEDS TO MAKE AMENDS FOR.

HE SEEMS TO HAVE HIS SENSES ABOUT HIM NOW, AND YOU SAY HE IS HONEST. PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING TO HIS WORDS, THEN.

THE DRAGONMAW CLAN COULD NOT SO EASILY BE DEFEATED, I ASSURE YOU OF THAT... SUCH AN ARMY AS DESCRIBED COULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF THEY HAD BEEN.

OUR LEADERS HAVE WELCOMED THE BROKEN BACK INTO THE FOLD, BUT ONE MUST STILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT...THEIR SENSE OF EXAGGERATION AND PRONENESS TO ERROR--

FOOL DRAENEI! WE HAVE...SEEN THIS ARMY... SEEN THE NETHER DRAGONS! WE ARE NOT MISTAKEN, NOR ARE WE THE HALF-WITS SOME LIKE YOU STILL THINK WE ARE!

VALWAR--

NO! YOU WERE... WRONG TO THINK THAT THEY WOULD LISTEN IF THIS DRAENEI HAS THEIR EAR...

I WILL WASTE NO MORE TIME. MY PEOPLE WILL DEFEND THEMSELVES... AS ALWAYS!

VALWAR!!

LET HIM DEPART! WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH HIM!

AS FOR YOU, JORAD MACE... THERE IS THE QUESTION OF DESERTION.

I DID NOT DESERT! EVENTS *FORCED* MY PATH, NOT CHOICE, AND THAT PATH IN THE END STILL SERVED THE ALLIANCE!

AND THE LIGHT .. WHICH I HAD THOUGHT HAD FORSAKEN ME, BUT WHICH I HAD FORSAKEN INSTEAD...

...WILL VOUCH FOR MY DEDICATION TO THE SILVER HAND...

!!!

VALWAR! YOU ARE... BACK! WE FEARED FOR YOU WHILE YOU... WERE AMONG THE OUTSIDERS!

THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN! THERE WAS A DRAENEI, TOO, ONE STILL CLINGING TO THE OLD PREJUDICES... BUT IN THE END, HE... WAS NOT SO IMPORTANT. THEY SIMPLY DID NOT BELIEVE THE DANGER.

WE ARE ON OUR OWN AS ALWAYS...

HAVE THE OTHERS... DONE AS I ASKED?

YES... THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER... HAS AIDED THEIR EFFORTS. THE OTHERS COULD NOT REFUSE HIS... SACRIFICE... THEY RUSHED TO JOIN.

THE OUTSIDERS CAN JOIN THE DRAENEI IN DENYING... THEIR DOOM, BUT EVEN THOUGH WE STAND ALONE... IF RAGNOK SEEKS US AFTER DESTROYING THEM...

...HE WILL FIND THE BROKEN NO EASY PREY!

VALWAR! WE HAVE COME... AS YOU ASKED...

YOUR REACTION IS... GRATIFYING... MY FATHER WOULD BE HONORED...

BUT THE OUTSIDERS REFUSE TO LISTEN... WE MUST MARCH BACK INTO ZANGARMARSH AND WORRY ABOUT OUR OWN... SURVIVAL...

WE ARE TO... GO? WILL WE NOT EVEN HELP... THOSE OF OUR KIND ENSLAVED BY DRAGONMAW CLAN AND SURELY... NOW BY RAGNOK?

AND WHAT OF THE OUTSIDERS? WILL THEY TRULY NOT BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE DEATH KNIGHT'S POWER?

LIKELY NOT... BUT THEY WILL WEAKEN HIM... THAT IS OUR BEST HOPE--

VALWAR! VALWAR!

THEY'VE BEEN... SIGHTED! THEY'RE NEARLY THERE!

VALWAR, WOULD WE NOT---

NO

WE DO AS I SA.D...

!!!

KRACKLE!

WOOM!

I LEAVE THIS MATTER IN YOUR HANDS, IRULON. YOU ARE THE BEST JUDGE OF THIS MAN OF YOURS.

I MAY HAVE BEEN TOO HASTY...

JORAD MACE HAS FOUND HIS WAY TO THE LIGHT AGAIN. THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES AS TO THE TRUST WE CAN PLACE IN HIM.

BUT ONLY TIME

IT MIGHT BE BEST IF YOU RAISE THE ALERT--

TOO LATE!

THEY'RE HERE!

DESTROY THEM... SLAUGHTER THEM...

ALLIANCE OR HORDE, IT DOESN'T MATTER!

ALL WHO STAND IN MY WAY WILL FALL!

CONTROL OF THE PORTAL WILL BE MINE...

AS YOU SAY!

SOUND THE CALL TO BATTLE! IRULON! I MUST HEAD TO THE FRONT LINES! I LEAVE YOUR PALADINS TO YOUR ORDERS!

COMMANDER DURON--

THESE BEASTS ARE LIKE NONE OTHER! MERE WEAPONS WILL NOT--

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE OUR WEAPONS... AND THE MAGI WITH US! WE SHALL BEAT BACK THESE FIENDS, PALADIN!

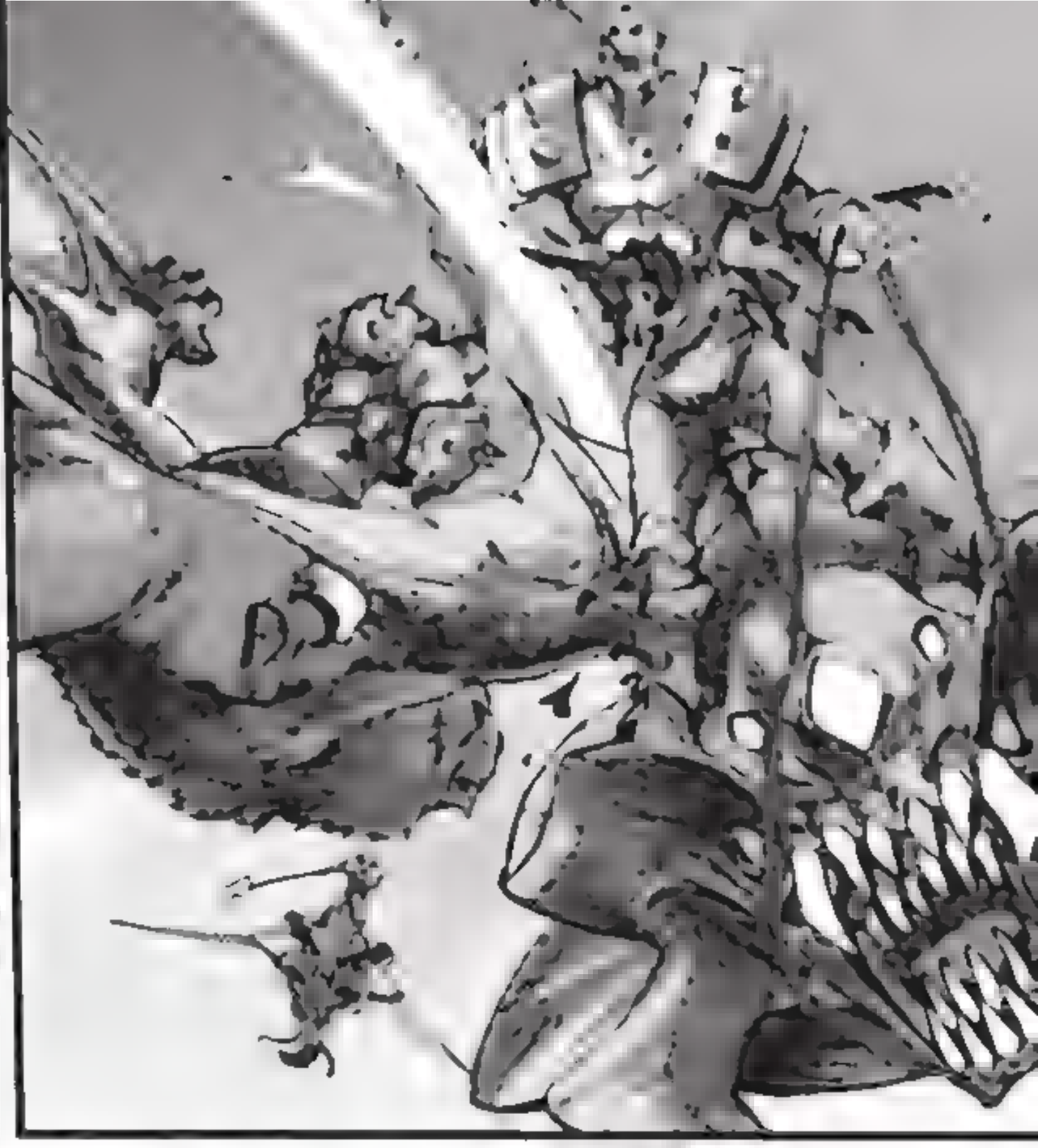
BUT--

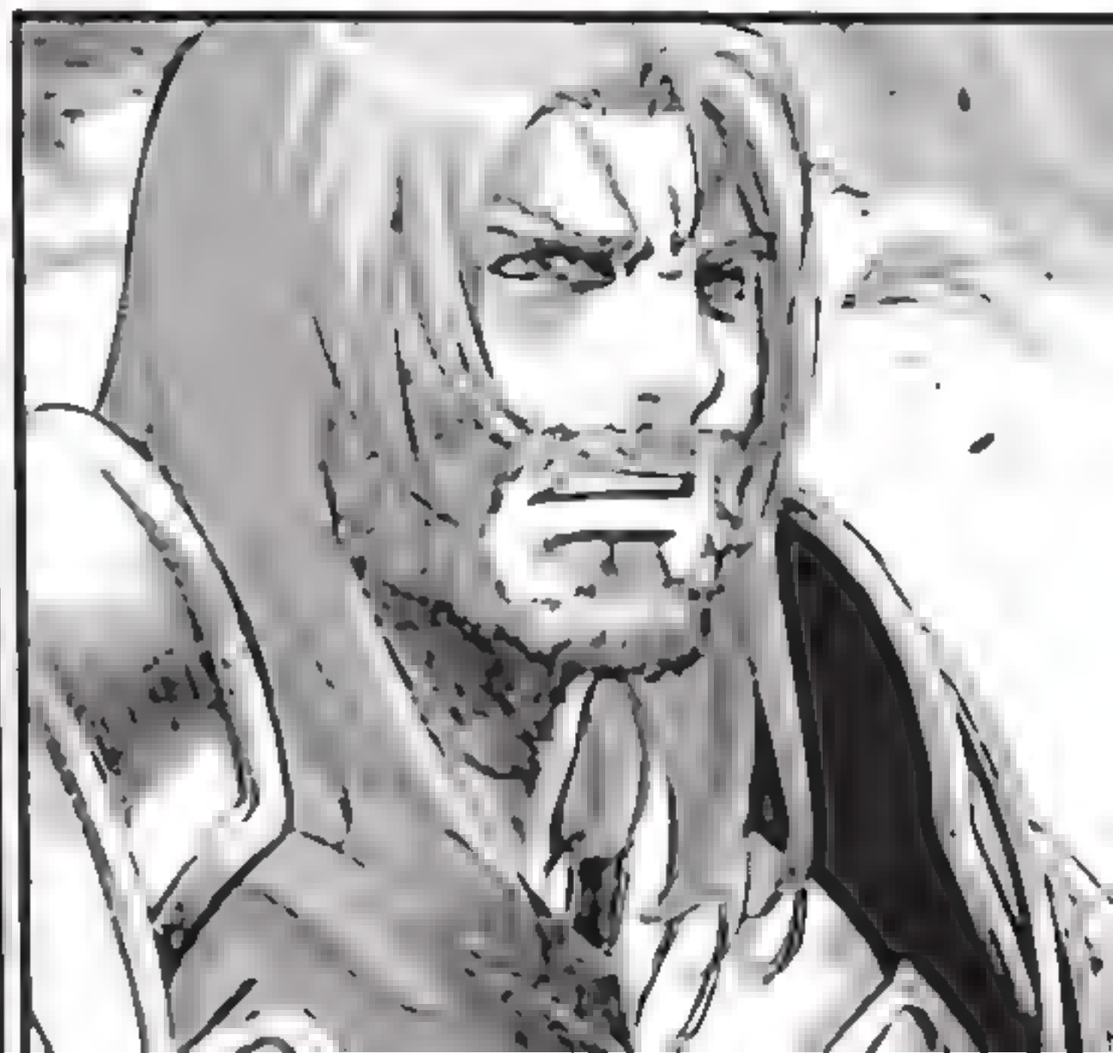
DURON WILL SEE TO THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, JORAD.

YOUR DUTY IS NOW TO STAND WITH YOUR BROTHERS. SOMEONE! GIVE HIM A *HAMMER!*

AYE, MY LORD!

AND PRAY THE LIGHT WILL GUIDE US!





THIS IS AVAILING US LITTLE! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!

RAGNOK! BUT HE'S TOO FAR AWAY!

AH!

IRULON!

KRACK!

UNNF!

MY SHOULDER! THE PAIN'S GROWN STRONGER AGAIN! MUST FIGHT IT!

COME ON! UP!

THERE!

I MUST REACH HIM QUICKLY! ONLY BY TAKING HIM CAN WE HAVE A CHANCE!

EH?

FWWAMM!

YAAAAAA!

AAA!

!!!

UNFH--

NO!!

CHAPTER THREE

CHAOS

STAND FAST! SHORE UP THOSE LINES!

THEY WILL NOT HAVE THE PORTAL

PATHETIC FOOLS! BETTER TO FLEE AND HOPE TO SAVE YOUR HIDES!

NOTHING WILL KEEP THE PORTAL FROM BECOMING MINE!

AGGGH

NOTHING...

UNGH!

UV--
SHOULDER!

IT NEEDS HEALING DESPERATELY--BUT I CANNOT WASTE EFFORT ON MYSELF WHEN OTHERS NEED ME! THE DEATH KNIGHT MUST BE STOPPED!

YES!

UNF!

!!!

PRAISE BE!

I'VE GOT TO STOP RAGNOK--IF IT'S STILL AT ALL POSSIBLE!

THEY ARE BREAKING THROUGH!

WHAT'S THAT?!

!!!

NNN--

TIE

AAH!

AMAAN THE YOUNGER, I THOUGHT IT YOU... TAKE... MY HAND QUICKLY!

STOP!

MASTER COMMANDS DEATH TO ALL ENEMIES! WE MUST OBEY!

THE COLLARS! THE ONES USED AGAINST ME BOTH EMPLOYED ARCANE ENERGIES IN A MATRIX TO ENFORCE THE CASTER'S WILL UPON THE WEARER! IF I CAN MANIPULATE THOSE ENERGIES AS I HOPE...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THESE TWO WITHOUT A FIGHT!

RRRARRH!

UNGH! THE MATRIX IS MORE INTRICATE THAN I THOUGHT, BUT... MY SPELL... MUST... WORK! IT MUST!

YES! IT'S... IT'S DONE!

WHAT DID YOU DO? ARE THEY FREE? ARE THEY FREE?

NO, IZZERAKU... I COULDN'T MANAGE THAT...BUT WITH GREAT EFFORT...I MANAGED TO MANIPULATE THE ARCANE ENERGIES OF THE MATRIX THAT CONTROLS THE COLLARS' OBEDIENCE SPELL...

THE MATRIX COULD NOT BE DESTROYED, BUT IT COULD BE ALTERED... NOW THEY'LL OBEY *ME* INSTEAD...

IT WAS LESS THAN I HAD HOPED FOR, BUT STILL...IT'S *SOMETHING*... AT LEAST UNTIL WE CAN TRULY *DESTROY* THE COLLARS...

YOU'LL HELP US NOW! WE MUST STOP THE DEATH KNIGHT!

I AM NOT YOUR MISTRESS! WHEN WE CAN, WE'LL FIND A WAY TO *FULLY FREE* YOU, I PROMISE!

NOW FOLLOW ME! HURRY!

HURRY, ZZERAKU! SOON, THE DEATH KNIGHT WILL BE DESTROYED AND ALL OUR KIND WILL BE FREE! *HURRY!*

THEY WILL BE FREE...

VALWAR CAME BACK AFTER ALL!

BUT IT STILL MAY ALL BE FOR NOUGHT UNLESS THE DEATH KNIGHT IS QUICKLY DEALT WITH!

MAY THE LIGHT GUIDE ME!

RRARR!

!!!

IMPETUOUS PALADIN! ALL YOU'LL EARN YOURSELF IS A TERRIBLE DEATH!

IF DIE I MUST, THEN SO BE IT! BUT YOU'LL *JOIN* ME!

FOOL! THIS BODY IS ALREADY DEAD... THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

BUT FACE YOUR DOOM...

I WILL FACE ALL THAT I MUST. AND IF I AM WORTHY, THE LIGHT WILL PROTECT ME!

AAA!

NOTHING, NOT EVEN THAT, WILL SAVE YOU ANY MORE THAN YOUR FRIENDS CAN BE SAVED FROM MY NETHER DRAGONS!

WE MUST FIND THE DEATH KNIGHT AND THE DEVICE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO FREE ALL THE NETHER DRAGONS AND TURN THE TIDE--

THERE! RAGNOK-- AND JORAD?!

FRIEND TYRI! MORE OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

KEEP BACK! I DON'T--DON'T DARE TRY THE COLLARS AGAIN-- TOO TAXING--BUT MAYBE ANOTHER SPELL TO HOLD THEM OFF!

HSSS!

RRRARRH!

THEIR COLLECTIVE POWER'S TOO GREAT!

WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT PAST THEM IF WE WANT TO REACH THE DEATH KNIGHT!

FIGHT THEM?

NO...

DO AS I SAY! IT'S OUR *ONLY* *HOPE!*

HSSS!

RRRARRH!

RA--

AAAAA!!!

NNNNNN!!!!

NO! YOU MUST NOT HURT OUR FRIEND! SHE WILL FREE US!

VALOKU!

UNGH.

VALOKU CAN'T KEEP UP SUCH AN ATTACK!

HE'S ALREADY STARTING TO BURN AWAY!

THEY'RE CAREENING TOO CLOSE TO THE PORTAL! IF HE ISN'T CAREFUL--

ZZERAKU! WAIT! YOU CAN'T--

FRIEND TYRI... ZZERAKU...

AAAA!

I WILL SAVE YOU, VALOKU!

ZZERAKU! NO! NOT SO NEAR THE PORTAL!

Z-ZZERAKU? FRIEND TURI...

FWOOSH!

VALOKU!

AAAAAAAA!!!

FWOOOSH!

IT'S GOING TO COLLIDE WITH THE ENERGIES OF THE PORTAL!

KRAAACK!

THWOOM!

ZZERAKU'S WILD SPELL--AND THE OTHER NETHER DRAGONS' UNLEASHED ENERGIES--THEY'VE ALL COMBINED TO GREATLY DAMAGE THE PORTAL!

OUTLAND IS SEALED OFF!

CHAPTER FOUR

RIFT

THEY'VE DESTROYED IT! KADAVAN! BLAST YOU! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? CAN YOU--?

ENSURING THAT ALL THE COLLARS REMAIN FUNCTIONING AT THEIR OPTIMUM, AS PER OUR CONTRACT AND YOUR REQUEST... I GUARANTEE ALL MY WARES, AS YOU KNOW...

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE A METHOD OF ENSNARING NETHER DRAGONS IS ONE THING... REVIVING A PORTAL...NOW *THAT* WOULD BE A PROFITABLE DEVICE, IF I HAD ONE.

CURSED DRAGON! SHE'LL PAY!

THAT MUST BE WHAT CONTROLS THE NETHER DRAGONS!

COME, DEATH KNIGHT! OUR OWN BATTLE HAS YET TO BE SETTLED!

FOOL! I'LL SETTLE IT QUICK ENOUGH...

...THEN DEAL WITH YOUR DRAGON!

ALAS, IT SEEMS THIS VENTURE'S REACHED THE END OF ITS PROFITABILITY

BEST TO TURN TO OTHER, MORE VALUABLE ENDEAVORS...

JORAD AND RAGNOK! AND THAT MUST BE THE [illegible]

EMANATIONS! I CAN FEEL THEM FROM HERE! IT CAN'T BE RAGNOK'S CREATION! HE MUST'VE OBTAINED IT FROM SOMEONE ELSE--

THAT KADAVAN CREATURE! HE MAY BE NEEDED IF I CANNOT DESTROY THE DEVICE...

TYR! PERHAPS--

I PRAY SHE UNDERSTANDS!

WHY IS HE POINTING AT THAT-- THAT THING?

THAT'S NO ORC... CERTAINLY NO WARRIOR OR MAGE...FROM WHAT I CAN SENSE...COULD IT *BE?*

YOU'VE NO HOPE, PALADIN! GIVE IN TO YOUR DEATH, AND I MAY GRANT YOU SOME TINY MERCY!

THERE IS *ALWAYS* HOPE!

THERE IS ALWAYS *THE LIGHT!*

AAAAAGGH!

UNNFF!

THWUNK!!

NOT ENOUGH! MUST TRY AGAIN!

FOOL! YOU SHOULD'VE WORRIED MORE ABOUT YOURSELF!

NOW... YOU'LL TRULY SUFFER...

A TERRIBLE SHAME! THE DEATH KNIGHT'S AMBITIONS PROMISED SO MANY POTENTIAL AVENUES OF PROFIT, SO MANY DEALS.

I WOULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU... AND IF YOU CAN ANSWER *RIGHT*, I *MAY* LET YOU LIVE!

YOU WILL *LIVE*... IF YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT THE SLAVE COLLARS...AND HOW TO FREE THE NETHER DRAGONS FROM THEM.

THAT IS THE ONLY DEAL I OFFER..

AHH... THERE ARE MANY REASONS NOT ONLY TO GRANT ME SUCH A VALUABLE REWARD, BUT ALSO TO ENHANCE YOUR CHARMING OFFER WITH *FURTHER* REMUNERATION--

AH...
YES, THE COLLARS!
THE DEVICE THAT CREATES AND CONTROLS THE COLLARS IS TRULY A SIMPLE YET ELEGANT DESIGN, WORTHY OF ITS PRICE--

WWWAAA

TELL-- ME--HOW--TO STOP IT!

TRULY, MASTERY OF THE DEVICE IS EASY, REQUIRING THE UNDERSTANDING OF A FEW TWISTS AND TURNS OF ITS COMPONENTS AND THE RIGHT ADJUSTING OF ITS ENERGIES.

ONCE THE DEVICE IS RETRIEVED FROM THE DEATH KNIGHT, IT WOULD TAKE BUT SECONDS FOR ME TO SHOW YOU HOW TO MANIPULATE IT

GOOD! THEN ALL WE NEED TO DO IS GET YOU BACK TO THE DEATH KNIGHT!

THIS WILL GO FASTER IF I TAKE YOU *MYSELF.*

!!!

UNNNF!!

YOU RESIST MY POWER! HOW CAN THIS BE?

IT IS THE *LIGHT*--THE LIGHT IS WITH ME!

AND AGAINST IT, ALL YOUR POWER IS AS *NOTHING!*

THWACK!

NO!

AAAA!!!

THWAK!!

UNGH!

KRAKL!

KRAKL!

KRAKL

FWOOOM!

HHSSSH!

RRRRAR!

RRRRAR!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SOMETHING MUST HAVE DESTROYED THE DEVICE! I ALWAYS ADVISE THE CLIENT ABOUT PROPER HANDLING, BUT--

ENOUGH! JUST TELL ME HOW TO RIGHT THIS!

ALAS... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE IF THE DEVICE IS RUINED... NOTHING AT ALL...

THE DEVICE! FOOL! WITHOUT IT, THE NETHER DRAGONS CANNOT BE CONTROLLED!

BUT YOUR VICTORY IS SHORT-LIVED! YOUR LIGHT IS TOO WEAK TO SAVE YOU FROM THE SPELL OF DECAY MY TOUCH HAS GRANTED YOU! I WILL GO ON, REGAIN CONTROL OF THE BEASTS--

NO... DEATH KNIGHT...

THIS MUST END HERE... *NOW*... AT... AT *WHATEVER*... COST!

YOUR WILL IS TOO WEAK! YOUR HOLY TRICKS WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING THIS TIME, AND WITHOUT THEM, YOU ARE NOTHING!

WITH... OR WITHOUT THE LIGHT... I AM... AND WILL ALWAYS... BE... A PALADIN OF THE SILVER HAND...

AND *THAT* IS WHY YOU WILL... NOT SUCCEED...

AS FOR... FOR THE LIGHT... IT IS NO LITTLE TRICK... THE LIGHT IS THE *TRUTH*...

Jorad focuses inward, seeking the Light as never before and willing to make whatever sacrifice necessary...

NO MERE MORTAL WEAPON CAN HARM ME! NO PALADIN HAS THE STRENGTH TO DESTROY ME!

BEFORE THE LIGHT, YOU ARE IN TRUTH NOTHING BUT A CORPSE TOO LONG LEFT UNBURIED... A FOUL SPIRIT LONG OVERDUE TO BE CAST OUT...

The strain is terrible, yet also wonderful. He knows that the price is worth it.

More than ever, in this moment, Jorad Mace and the Light are one.

IT IS NEITHER MY HAMMER NOR I WHO WILL BE THE FORCE BEHIND YOUR DESTRUCTION, DEATH KNIGHT! WE ARE BUT THE TOOLS...

JUDGMENT HAS BEEN MADE UPON YOU NOT BY US...

BUT BY THE LIGHT!

TWHHOOM!

And as one, they are UNSTOPPABLE!

AAAA

WHILE I AM ALWAYS EAGER FOR A GOOD DEAL, I FEAR THAT I'VE NOTHING TO OFFER IN THIS CASE.

I'LL MAKE YOU A NEW DEAL! GIVE ME *ANOTHER* DEVICE, AND *YOU'LL* HAVE YOUR FREEDOM, TOO!

THE COLLARS WILL SOON BURN AWAY ANYWAY, BUT THEY'LL HAVE DRAINED THE NETHER DRAGONS TOO MUCH! THEY ARE DOOMED! SAD. THEY HAD *SUCH* PROFIT POTENTIAL.

NOW, OF COURSE, IF WE HAD A *TREMENDOUS* POWER SOURCE *TRULY* PHENOMENAL IT WOULD PERHAPS RESTORE THEM. BUT ALAS, WHERE WOULD ONE FIND IT?

I SENSE NOTHING ANYWHERE HERE THAT WOULD POSSIBLY SUFFICE! IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMETHING UNIQUELY POWERFUL. MORE LIKE-- YES! IT WOULD WORK!

BUT TO--TO REACH THAT, WE NEED THE DARK PORTAL... AND IT'S NOT WORKING! THERE'S NO OTHER PORTAL AVAILABLE--

UNLESS...

ZZERAKU! QUICKLY!

WHERE ALL YOUR KIND CAN BE RESTORED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! BUT I'LL NEED YOU TO GATHER 'HEM DESPITE THEIR AGONY!

ON AZEROTH...

BUT HOW DO WE--?

AND IF I FAIL AT WHAT I PLAN, IT MAY NOT BE JUST THE NETHER DRAGONS WHO PERISH...

UNNGH!

IF I CAN JUST GET LOW ENOUGH

!!!

UNF!

THWACK!!

JORAD MACE! I SAW YOU ABOVE, SEEKING THE MASTER OF THE NETHER DRAGONS!

THAT YOU ARE HERE GIVES ME HOPE THAT YOU WERE VICTORIOUS!

'TIS TRUE, THE DEATH KNIGHT WHO LED THIS IS NO MORE, BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE NETHER DRAGONS WAS NOT INTENDED BY ME!

WHAT OF IT? WE ARE BETTER RID OF THE BEASTS! MY CONCERN IS FOR THE ALLIANCE AND SOMEHOW OPENING THE PORTAL AGAIN--

EH?

BY THE LIGHT!

WHAT THE BLAZES IS THAT BLUE DRAGON UP TO? JORAD, IS SHE TRYING TO CREATE--?

AYE, MY LORD! I THINK-I THINK SHE *IS*!

AZEROTH IS THEIR ONLY HOPE. AND THAT ONLY HOPE LIES IN A DIMENSIONAL RIFT.

OPENING ONE IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE... WITHOUT RISK! BUT I HAVE TO!

KRAACKLE

KRAACKLE

KRAACKLE

THE COLLARS ARE DISSIPATING, BUT THE STRAIN HAS ALL BUT BURNED THE NETHER DRAGONS UP! THEY'LL SIMPLY FADE AWAY...

THE RIFT MUST OPEN! I WILL NOT FAIL THEM!

KRAAAACKL

KRAAAACKL

KRAAAACKL

IT'S OPENING, BUT WILL IT HOLD?! NEVER-NEVER USED SO MUCH POWER!

!!!

FWOOOOM!!!

ZZERAKU!! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD IT TOGETHER! EVERYONE MUST FOLLOW ME THROUGH!

TO WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU PLAN?!

TO SAVE YOU! HURRY!

COME!!

IT'S STARTING TO COLLAPSE ALREADY! STAY CLOSE TOGETHER!

KRRAAA

WE HAVE TO FLY FASTER! THE STRAIN FROM THE COLLARS IS TOO MUCH! THEY CAN'T HOLD THEMSELVES TOGETHER ANY LONGER!!!

LLLLLK!

LLLLLK!

AND
EVEN THEN, I COULD BE WRONG, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE. THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE THAT MIGHT SAVE THEM... ONE PLACE...

THE NEXUS...

CHAPTER FIVE

NEXUS

WE-WE'VE DONE IT! WE'RE IN-THROUGH TO NORTHREN

THERE! THAT WAY! THE-THE ENERGIES OF THE NEXUS WILL REJUVENATE YOU!

FOLLOW- FOLLOW ME...

[illegible]

AAAA

THERE...
THERE IT IS...

THE NEXUS!

ITS ENERGIES WILL BE Y-YOUR SALVATION! ALL YOU SHOULD HAVE TO DO--

?!

ZZERAKU! YOU AND THE OTHERS *MUST* KEEP UP!

W-WE ARE GROWING WEAKER! IS THIS-- IS THIS WHAT WILL SAVE US? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

YES! THIS IS THE SANCTUM OF MY LORD, MALYGOS--LORD OF THE BLUE DRAGONFLIGHT AND MASTER OF ARCANE MAGIC!

HE WILL HELP US?

NO... HE IS LOST IN MADNESS AND DOES NOT EVEN STIR THESE DAYS! HE CAN'T AID US, BUT THE POWERFUL ENERGIES OF THE NEXUS CAN! I SWEAR!

I FEEL... I FEEL IT... THE *POWER*... YES, THIS IS IT!

COME! THIS IS OUR HOPE!

ZZERAKU--

YES!
DRAW FROM IT!
FEED FROM IT!

IT'S WORKING--
AND JUST IN TIME!

THEY'RE STILL
ABSORBING
POWER...

THE NEXUS IS
COMPLETELY
REVITALIZING THEM!

ZZERAKU!
CALL THEM BACK!
THEY'VE FULLY
RECUPERATED!

ZZERAKU! LISTEN!
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT WILL HAPPEN--

YES...I DO...
WE WILL GROW
STRONGER YET--

STRONG ENOUGH
SO NO ONE WILL EVER
ENSLAVE US AGAIN! NOT
EVEN YOU AND YOUR
MASTER!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! ZZERAKU, I ONLY SEEK TO HELP--

NO ONE HELPS US! ALL WANT TO *USE* US!

BUT WE ARE STRONG NOW! WE WILL BE *MASTERS*, NOT SLAVES! THIS WORLD, THIS AZEROTH, WILL BE OUR RIGHTFUL DOMAIN!

WE WILL BE WHAT WE WERE BORN TO BE...

NO, ZZERAKU! THAT'S ALL WRONG! YOU DON'T WANT TO FOLLOW DEATHWING'S PATH! THE NETHER DRAGONS ARE NOT LIKE THE BLACK DRAGONS!

WE HAVE LISTENED TO YOU ENOUGH.

AAAAAAA!

ZZZZZTTT

ZZZZZTTT

ZZZZZTTT

N-NO, ZZERAKU! I-IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE-BE THIS WAY! YOU ARE NOT BOUND TO THIS DARK PATH! Y-YOU CAN BECOME SOMETHING FAR B-BETTER!

LIES! IF WE ARE NOT MASTERS, WE CAN ONLY BE *SLAVES!*

AND WE WILL *NOT* BE SLAVES!

YOU WILL NOT BE--BE SLAVES--OR MASTERS--BUT EQUALS!

EQUALS?

CEASE!

[illegible]

TYRYGOSA! AND WHAT ARE THESE--THESE MONSTROSITIES?

[illegible]

YOU FOUL--CREATURES--DARE NOT ONLY INVADE THE SANCTUM OF MY FATHER, BUT ALSO SEEK TO SLAY ONE OF OUR OWN? AND THEN YOU THREATEN *ME*?

SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY, AND I SHALL STILL BE MERCIFUL! HESITATE--AND YOU WILL ALL PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE!

SURRENDER? BECOME YOUR SLAVES? NO!

WE WILL TAKE THE NEXUS FROM YOU, AND WE WILL BE STRONGER THAN ALL OTHERS!

A-ARYGOS! ZZERAKU! N-NO! D-DON'T--

FWWWSSSSH

ZZZZTTT

FWOOOOOM!!!

SSSS

RRRROARR

KRRAR

HISSSSS

FWOOSH

BLACK WW

THWOOOM

THEY-THEY'LL DESTROY ONE ANOTHER--AND OVER NOTHING BUT THEIR OWN MISAPPREHENSIONS!

THEY HAVE TO BE STOPPED. PERHAPS...

NO... MALYGOS WILL SURELY NOT STIR--NOT EVEN FOR THIS.

THERE REMAINS ONLY ONE OTHER HOPE...

"BUT WILL HE HEAR ME ANY MORE THAN MALYGOS WOULD HAVE?"

KALECGOS... KALEC...

WHO IS IT? TYRI?

KALEC! I-I'M NEAR THE NEXUS! YOU HAVE TO COME--

TYRI!! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU! THE LINK IS SO WEAK--

I...I NEED YOUR HELP! I CANNOT EXPLAIN, SAVE THAT THE NEXUS IS IN DANGER!

WHAT DID YOU SAY? SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEXUS?

TYRI?! TYRI?! I CAN'T SENSE YOU ANY MORE!

KALEC?! KALEC?!

I...I COULDN'T MAINTAIN THE LINK LONG ENOUGH... HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT I WANT... HE WON'T KNOW TO COME HERE...

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO...

IT FALLS TO ME... I HAVE TO MAKE ZZERAKU SEE REASON...AND EXPLAIN TO ARYGOS...

RRRROOOARRR

HISSSSSS

FWOOSSSS

FWWWOOM!!!

ZZERAKU! FOR THE LAST TIME, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME! THIS CAN'T GO ON!

AND IT WILL NOT... THEY CANNOT STAND AGAINST US ANY LONGER... SEE!

WE ARE TOO POWERFUL...AND WITH THE NEXUS, WE WILL GROW *MORE* POWERFUL!

ZZERAKU, THIS PATH WILL ONLY LEAD TO DESTRUCTION! YOU AND YOUR KIND ARE NOT BLACK DRAGONS! YOU ARE SO MUCH MORE AND CAN *BE* SO MUCH MORE, BUT--

FWOOOM!!

NO MORE TALK!

UNNGH!

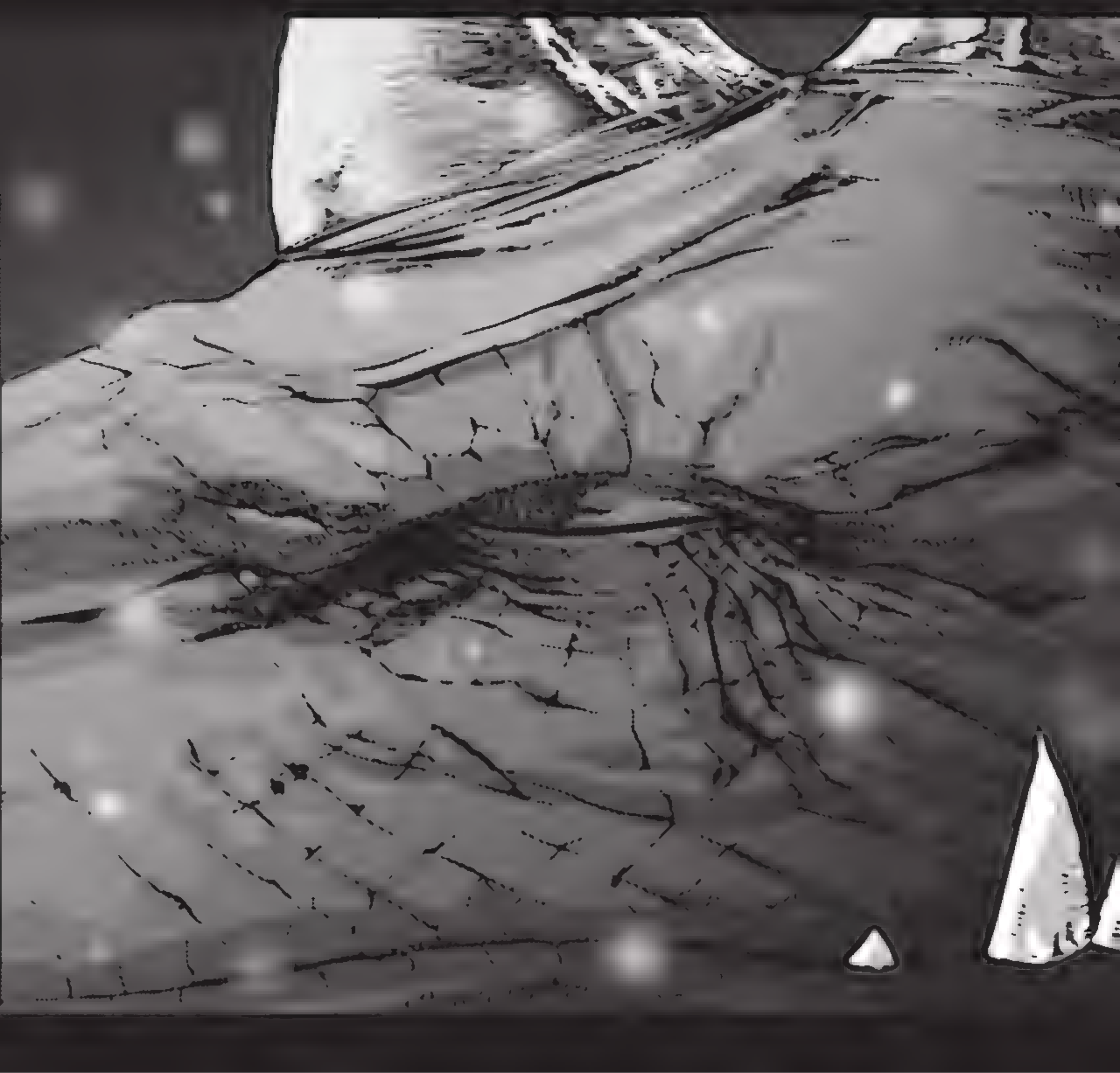
WE ARE THE STRONGEST HERE NOW! WE COMMAND THIS PLACE! YOUR KIND SHALL RULE NO LONGER!

WE WILL NOT RETURN TO OUTLAND! AZEROTH WILL BE OUR HOME!

AND FROM THE NEXUS, WE WILL RULE ALL!!

CHAPTER SIX

LORD OF THE NEXUS



THIS WILL ONLY LEAD TO CATASTROPHE, ZZERAKU! AZEROTH WILL RISE AGAINST YOU! THAT ISN'T WHAT YOU WANT!

WE ARE STRONG NOW! WE WILL CRUSH ALL! WE WILL FEAR NO ONE AGAIN!

ZZERAKU, YOU--

SOMETHING--I SENSE SOMETHING!

ZZERAKU! BEWARE! YOU MUST LEAVE THE NEXUS!

WHAT DO YOU--?

FWOOOM!

KRAKL

KRAAA

OH, ZZERAKU!
OH, NO!

YOU DID THIS! YOU TRICKED ZZERAKU! YOU HURT HIM!

NO! LISTEN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! I WANT TO SAVE YOU! HE STIRS! MALYGOS STIRS! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS! HE'S--

KRAKL

KRAKL

WHO. .DARE *DEFILE*..THE NEXUS?!?

KRAKL

THE NEXUS IS OURS! *OURS!*

HSSSS!

RRRRRRRRRAAAAAR!

FWEEEEET!

ZAZZT

THWWWOOM!

HSSSS!

THIS IS... WRONG! ALL... *WRONG!*

LIAR! THIS WAS A *TRAP!* YOU WANT US TO BE SLAVES!

THWWOOSH!

FLZZAKK!

FLZZAKK!

WE ARE TOO STRONG! WE ARE MOST POWERFUL! YOU WILL ALL FALL TO US!

FWOOSH!

LOLTI

FWOOSHSH!!

!!!

I-IT'S NO USE! I-I'VE FAILED THEM!

THE NEXUS— MY NEXUS—

ITS ENERGIES ARE MINE...AND I AM THEM...

NO! *WE* ARE THE NEXUS NOW!

YES...YOU...ARE THE NEXUS... YES...

WE ARE...THE NEXUS...

WE...ARE POWER. ARCANE MAGIC...

AND I AM LORD OF ALL THAT IS AMONGST I AM MAGIC.

CAN'T... FEND THEM OFF... CAN'T--

THUD

THUD

RARRRRRRGH!!

FWWWWWOOOOMMMM

FWWWSSSHH

FZZZZAK

FWWWOOOOM!!!

FWZZT!

K-KALECGOS?

PRAISE BE THAT YOU CAME! I THOUGHT MY MESSAGE DIDN'T GET THROUGH.

I WAS AFRAID THAT I WAS ALREADY TOO LATE! I'M SORRY I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND ALL THAT YOU SAID!

YOU MENTIONED THE NEXUS, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT--

IT JUST BARELY-- WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

NO! THE NETHER DRAGONS!

KALECI WE MUST STOP THEM! THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE--

But Tyri realizes it is already too late...

"We are the Nexus," the nether dragons had proclaimed, not truly understanding what that might mean to the mad Malygos.

For the Nexus is the ultimate repository of arcane energies, and Malygos, even in his insanity, is still lord of arcane magic.

If the nether dragons are indeed the Nexus, by the insane Dragon Aspect's notion, they are also a part of HIMSELF...

And thus, the Lord of Arcane Magic now returns them to where they BELONG...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WEAKENED THEIR ENEMY THROUGH THE VERY ESSENCE I MUST...

NO! THERE'S NO TELLING HIS STATE OF MIND! BESIDES, IT'S ALREADY OVER!

OVER...

BUT IT IS NOT YET OVER...

LOOK AT HIM! HIS GAZE IS CLEAR... COULD IT BE? THE MADNESS...

COULD IT BE...NO MORE?

I SEE THE WORLD CLEARLY AGAIN... I SEE ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TO IT--TO THE MAGIC. *ESPECIALLY* TO THE MAGIC...

THERE IS MUCH TO CONSIDER.. AND MUCH WE MAY HAVE TO DO.

TYRI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THIS--THIS IS NOT HOW IT SHOULD HAVE ENDED FOR ZZERAKU AND HIS KIND! IT WASN'T THEIR FAULT! THEY HAD NO GUIDANCE!

I INTEND TO CHANGE THAT.

I *WILL* FIND MY WAY BACK TO OUTLAND...AND TO THOSE WHO I MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO HELP.

I SWORE TO ANVEENA I WOULD ALWAYS PROTECT HER AND SO I NEED TO RETURN QUICKLY. BUT KNOWING HER AS I DO, I THINK SHE WOULD *INSIST* THAT I HELP YOU RETURN FIRST.

HMM, NO RETURN RIDE THERE... NO MATTER. THE PROFIT POTENTIAL FOR THAT TERRITORY HAS PLAYED ITSELF OUT, I THINK...

AND THAT HARDLY SEEMS A PLACE TO FIND AN EAGER CUSTOMER...

STILL... SOMEWHERE IN THIS NEW WORLD THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY EAGER TO SAMPLE THE WARES I CAN OFFER THEM...

ALL THEY'LL HAVE TO DO IS BE WILLING TO PAY THE *PRICE*...

And in Outland, the battle has ended in hard-fought victory.

The Alliance and Horde now seek to clear away the dead as magi from both sides move to strengthen a recently-revived Dark Portal.

MY LORD, IF I MAY--

NO NEED TO EXPLAIN. YOU HAVE SERVED THE CAUSE WELL. GO AND MAY THE LIGHT GUIDE YOU.

TYR!! WHAT HAPPENED? THE NETHER DRAGONS--

ZZERAKU AND THE OTHERS... ARE NO MORE. LEAVE IT AT THAT.

I AM SORRY! I KNOW YOU TRIED TO HELP THEM.

IF I HAD ONLY ENCOUNTERED ZZERAKU AND HIS KIND SOONER. AND IF MY MIND HAD NOT BEEN DWELLING SO MUCH ON PAST HEADSTRONG CHOICES THAT NEARLY KILLED NOT JUST MYSELF, BUT YOU AND THE OTHERS...

AND, YES, IF NOT ALSO FOR KALEC'S REJECTION OF OUR ORDAINED BONDING BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR ANVEENA... THIS MIGHT'VE ENDED DIFFERENT...

INSTEAD, NOT ONLY DID THEY PERISH, BUT YOU AND I NEARLY DID AS WELL.

IT IS HARD TO EXORCISE THE GHOSTS OF OUR PAST. I KNOW. YET, I'M SURE NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE MORE FOR THE NETHER DRAGONS THAN YOU DID, TYR!

THANK YOU FOR SAYING SO. I'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOU, JORAD MACE.

NO. YOU'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOURSELF.

PERHAPS. NEVER MIND. I'VE SAID TOO MUCH. NOW IT'S TIME I SIMPLY SAID... FAREWELL.

YOU-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

LIKELY BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS. IT'S ONLY A SUSPICION... ONLY A HOPE...

IT MAY BE THAT WE WILL SEE ONE ANOTHER AGAIN. BUT KNOW THAT I WILL ALWAYS CALL YOU FRIEND, JORAD... AND BE GRATEFUL TO HAVE KNOWN YOU...

AND I, YOU. AND WE *WILL* MEET AGAIN, I SWEAR...

FAREWELL, TYRYGOSA. GOOD LUCK WITH WHATEVER IT IS YOU SEEK...

I SEEK TO CHANGE THE LEGACY POOR ZZERAKU THOUGHT WAS THE NETHER DRAGONS' DESTINY.

I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SALVAGE HIS KIND'S FUTURE!

"EVEN IF I COULDN'T SAVE EITHER VALOKU OR HIM..."

WRONG... ZZERAKU WAS WRONG... TYRI WAS FRIEND... FRIEND TO ALL NETHER DRAGONS... TRIED TO TEACH US TO BE SOMETHING--SOMETHING MORE--AND I DID NOT LISTEN...

ZZERAKU... YOU ARE A FOOL! SHE-- SHE DID TRY TO SAVE ME-- ALL OF US!

THE OTHERS ARE GONE. ZZERAKU IS STILL STRONG...BUT NOT ENOUGH FOR THE GREAT BLUE ONE.

I MUST FIND FRIEND TYRI... SHE WILL TELL ME WHAT I MUST DO... YES, SHE WILL--

HAVE NO FEAR. YOUR FUTURE IS ALREADY PLANNED.

WHO DARES?

FOOLISH CREATURE! YOU DARE-- WHAT *HAPPENS?* WHAT IS THIS?

SOMETHING THE MISTRESS COMMANDED I BRING. THOUGH HOW SHE KNEW I'D FIND SUCH A CATCH IS HER SECRET...

AAAAAAA!!!!

BUT THEN, SHE HAS MANY SECRETS... INCLUDING ONE FOR WHICH YOU'LL PROVE QUITE INVALUABLE.

ONCE WE RETURN WITH YOU TO GRIM BATOL...*

*FOR MORE DETAILS ON THIS, SEE THE NOVEL, *NIGHT OF THE DRAGON*...

Epilogue

Outland: Some weeks after the Alliance and Horde, now rid of the death knight's fel orcs, resume their struggle against the Burning Legion.

But one paladin--for his great deeds and dedication given leave by his commander--rides on a more personal mission...

Answering the call for aid from a most cherished friend.

Her quest was a more daunting one than his simple trek; she sought something well hidden in a land she did not know.

But Jorad Mace is well aware of the dragon's own immense determination--of the promise she made for Zzeraku's kind.

And well aware that if what Tyri seeks DOES exist, she will find it.

The hope for a future for the nether dragons. A future that proves they are more than a shadow of Deathwing's evil.

A future which Tyri intends to nurture as best she can... and which in turn...

May nurture her future as well...

The End

DEATH

E E
M R
P I